(c) whether Government are considering a proposal to privatise some plants; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Sor far, no plant has been set up in the Central Public Sector for exclusive manufacture of charge chrome. However, with the broad banding of the ferro alloys industry permitted last year, production or various types of ferro alloys had been made permissible from existing units. This industry has since been delicensed.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply above.

Production of gold in the country

866. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity and value of gold produced in the country during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) whether the companies entrusted with the task of production of gold in Kolar Gold fields are earning profits at present; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to boost the production of gold, keeping in the tight foreign exchange position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Quantity and value of gold produced in the country during the last three years is given in the statement (*See* below)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) According to available information of the known reserves of gold, it may not be feasible to boost the production of gold in a short time. Government who had intensified exploration of gold from VII Plan are now synthesising the data to determine the feasibility of boosting the production of gold. In the meantime, prospects of increasing gold production by treatment of ore tailings and development of shallow deposits have been initiated by Bharat Gold Mines Limited.

Statement

Gold produced and its value during the past 3 years in the country

Name of the Company	Production of Gold (in Kgs.) & value (in Rs. crores) 1988-89		1989-90		1990-91	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
I. Bharat Gold Mines Limited	943·19	29·95	773·35	24·97	764·25	76·47
II. Hutti Gold Mines Co, Ltd.	955·00	29·53	875·00	29·31	1049·00	36·33*
III. Hindustan Copper Limited (as a bye-product)	100·00	2·72	508·00	14·86	277·00	9·99
GRAND TOTAL	2008·19	62·20	2156·35	69·14	2090·25	72·79

*Provisional figures.

Note: Only BGML and HGML are mining and producing primary gold. Gold is produced as a bye-produced by HCL.